

♦The Lamoine Quarterly♦

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Multiple Shooting Impacts Town *Three Dead in Second Incident in 8-months*

(Lamoine) - For a second time in 2012 the Maine State Police major crimes unit was called to town in response to a multiple shooting. On October 23, 2012, the Hancock County Sheriff's Department responded to a 9-1-1 call at 3:45 AM reporting the shooting on Bobolink Lane. When deputies arrived moments later they found the bodies of 50-year old Robert Tilden and his 50-year old brother-in-law Russell Pinkham outside of Tilden's home. The shooter was still at large.

The State Police tactical team and negotiation team started arriving in the dark from all over the state. Officers shut down Mud Creek Road, and the search was on for 27-year old Leon Tilden who was suspected of shooting his father and uncle. All police agencies in the Hancock County area were told to be on the lookout for the younger Tilden, described as armed and dangerous. For hours the area was off limits to all of the public. The local schools were notified and parents of students in the area contacted and advised to bring their children to school by private vehicle because the bus would not serve the Mud Creek Road. The schools in Lamoine, Ellsworth and Sullivan were placed on lockdown for much of the



The property on Bobolink Lane was placed off limits by State Police Detectives following a multiple shooting October 23

morning.

Sometime around 10 AM, a state police negotiator came into contact with Leon Tilden near the shooting scene. Police have yet to release details of that confrontation, but it ended with a state police detective firing shots at Tilden. He died en route to Eastern Maine Medical Center aboard the Life Flight helicopter.

Mud Creek Road remained closed until early evening while detectives processed the shooting scene. Motorists who had evacuated their homes sought refuge either at the Lamoine Town Office or with friends until they were allowed back on the busy road.

As of year's end there are a lot of unanswered questions about what might have led to the shootings. Some of those questions may never be answered.

Planning Board Considers Big Pit

(Lamoine) - Lamoine's Planning Board has found applications submitted by Harold MacQuinn, Inc. to be complete, and a public hearing on a proposed pit expansion will be held on January 8, 2013 at 6:30 PM at the Lamoine School. A copy of the application is available for review at the Lamoine Town Office during regular business hours. The application must be reviewed on site and remain in the building.

The proposal would expand the current 33-acre pit on Douglas Highway into a 110-acre site, and level much of a hill of gravel. Atop that hill is a metal structure in a cross shape that was erected many years ago by landowner Ralph Miro. If the permit is granted, Mr. Miro has agreed to sell his land to MacQuinn. It's not clear whether the cross will be dismantled and removed should the gravel and site plan review permits be granted.

The Maine Department of Environmental Protection has issued its license for the proposed operation. Following the public hearing, the Lamoine Planning Board has 30-days to act on the gravel application and 45-days to act on the Site Plan Review application. It's not clear whether the board will act on the night of the public hearing.

There has been a great deal of media interest in the application, and the hearing will either be held at the town hall or the Lamoine School Gym, depending on the projected attendance for the hearing. If more than 30-people are anticipated to come to the hearing, it will be held at the school.

Incident Places Town in Media Spotlight Once Again

(Lamoine) - The media descended on Lamoine for the multiple shooting on October 23rd much as it did for the March 11th shootings that left one dead and three injured on Douglas Highway. The first reports aired on local radio and the Bangor TV stations quickly picked up on the story. The State Police and Hancock County Sheriff's Department supplied information about the incident itself and people clamored for more information.

Lamoine's Town Hall became a gathering point for the Pinkham/Tilden family and town staff quickly decided to close down the office in order to give the family privacy and to insulate the public from the incident. Staff members contacted medical and crisis counseling personnel to assist family members.

After the confrontation that ended with Leon Tilden being shot, the volunteer fire department was dispatched to set up a landing zone for the Life Flight helicopter. State police ended up setting up that zone,

and the fire department was diverted to a command post on Route 1 in Hancock to deliver drinking water.

After the shooting, a state police detective, a state trooper and a game warden arrived at the Town Hall to brief the family on what had taken place and what the next steps would be.

Meanwhile, Selectboard chair Jo Cooper prepared the following statement: *"The Lamoine Board of Selectmen would like to commend the Hancock County Sheriff's Department and the Maine State Police for their prompt response to the recent crisis in Lamoine. At a time of day when children were going to school and neighbors commuting to work, all were kept safe. We also wish to commend the Town Hall staff including Town Clerk Jennifer Kovacs and Administrative Assistant, Stu Marckoon, who responded quickly to the situation and helped by taking the family into the Town Hall when they were evacuated. Our hearts go out to*

the Tilden and Pinkham families in this terrible time.

Public safety and welfare are major responsibilities for the local municipality and we, as a Board, are often concerned that we provide the best that we can for our residents. This situation raises many questions that will be answered in time. But residents of the Town of Lamoine can be assured that we live in a community that is filled with good neighbors who help each other. This does not change in times of trouble or danger. Lamoine continues to be a great place to live.

In the weeks that followed, citizens organized a raffle and public supper to assist the Tilden family. In mid-November organizers Jennifer Reynolds and Amanda Fennelly reported the effort had raised in excess of \$7,400 to assist with living expenses. Maine Seacoast Mission set up and will administer the assistance fund. Donations can be sent directly to the Seacoast Mission with the Tilden Family designated.

Town Prevails on Gravel Pit Denial

(Lamoine) - A Superior Court judge has ruled in favor of Lamoine’s Planning and Appeals Boards in regard to a proposed gravel pit expansion that both boards rejected. Doug Gott & Sons, Inc. filed an appeal of the June, 2011 decision to not allow gravel mining on a piece of land that Gott purchased in 2009. The company owns several other gravel pit operations in town.

Justice Kevin Cuddy, in his written decision, cited several earlier court cases from other Maine communities as his reason to uphold the Lamoine Gravel Ordinance . The section of the ordinance in question was one that determines whether a gravel mining operation would adversely impact neighboring properties. The review standard reads that a permit may be granted if the Planning Board finds that among other things the pit “*will not adversely affect surrounding properties.*”

The attorney for Gott appealed on the basis that the review standard was too vague to be enforceable. Justice Cuddy

wrote that the standard was tied to multiple impacts *associated with gravel extraction, including erosion and runoff....groundwater pollution, scenic impacts vegetation impacts, spillage and leakage from transportation, open access dangers to the public, nighttime operations and noise.*” He said that provides “*cognizable, and quantitative standards by which the Board must make its decision*”.

During the public hearings that preceded the Planning Board decision, several landowners and neighbors testified about the negative impact from a gravel pit next to their property. One resident went as far as recording the sound of gravel trucks passing by her home and replaying the recording during the public hearings, claiming the noise would only get worse as more trucks were on the road.

The applicant still has another avenue of appeal—Maine’s Supreme Judicial Court. It’s not known if the applicants will attempt to appeal the case. Tony Beardsley represented the town in this case.

Town Settles Tree Growth Penalty Dispute

(Lamoine) - Several years ago the Board of Assessors issued tree growth tax penalties against several properties that had not provided up to date forest management plans and applications to continue enrollment in the tree growth program. That program values enrolled land at a significantly lower rate than the normal fair market value due to the land’s use as a commercial forest.

The penalties against Barbara Davis and Maine Coast Baptist Church totaled over \$75,000. Mrs. Davis and the church inherited the land from Mrs. Davis’s late husband, J. Aubrey Davis. Both parties appealed the penalty to State Board of Property Tax Review. After a hearing in 2010, the State Board ordered the Assessors to make proper notice under a legislative change that occurred after initial notice requesting compliance was made. The order from the state board also abated the penalty.

Following the state decision, the assessors reissued the notice with new filing deadlines, and when the required paperwork didn’t arrive, the penalties were reassessed in the same amount. Mrs. Davis and the church again filed an appeal to the State Board, and a hearing was scheduled to occur in November.

The town retained counsel this time around, as did the other parties. The day before the state hearing was set to take place, the two attorneys proposed a settlement, and both sides agreed.

Under the settlement the tree growth penalty for both parties was reduced by 50%, and the parties agree to remain unenrolled in the tree growth valuation program. Both sides are responsible for their own attorneys’ fees. The Board of Assessors expressed some relief that after about 4-years the matter has finally been settled. Refund checks were issued in December.

Auto Graveyards Renewed

(Lamoine) - The two licensed automobile graveyards in Lamoine received renewal permits from the town’s Board of Selectmen in October. The yards are owned and operated by Pro-Auto which is headquartered on Douglas Highway.

The Selectmen received no testimony during the public hearings on renewal of the facilities in North Lamoine and in Marlboro. Code Enforcement Officer Michael Jordan inspected both facilities and found them to be in good condition and compliant with both state rules and local ordinance. The yards are licensed for a year at a time and the permits expire each October.

Gravel Permits Renewed

(Lamoine) - The Planning Board has renewed permits for three gravel extraction operations run by Doug Gott and Sons, Inc. Two of the permits were granted unconditionally, the third permit requested proof that the pit area was still an active gravel mining operation as defined in the ordinance.

The Gott pits that received renewals are located behind the Lamoine Transfer Station, just to the west of the Salt/Sand Shed, and in North Lamoine on Douglas Highway. The North Lamoine pit was the one questioned as to whether it was active. Surveyor Steve Salsbury submitted affidavits saying the pit had enough material mined to meet the rules.

New Gravel, Revised Site Plan Ordinances Proposed

(Lamoine) - The town’s Planning Board is getting ready to put a brand new gravel extraction ordinance before voters in March, and the 1st draft of the new rules will be ready for comment in January.

Board members have been working for more than a year on the revised rules. The Site Plan Review change will be relatively easy—it will remove the requirement that gravel operations also apply for a Site Plan Review permit, as that process will become redundant with the new proposed gravel ordinance.

The new gravel ordinance is pretty stringent in some areas and will clean up some language from the current ordinance. Among the more restrictive requirements will be a 100-foot setback from abutting property lines for excavation areas. Adjacent pits will still be able, by agreement, to excavate to a common level at the lot line, and there are provisions for neighbors to provide a variance for less of a setback.

The Planning Board will have draft copies available ahead of a planned public hearing on January 22, 2013 at the Lamoine Town Hall. Comments received during that hearing will determine if any amendments to the draft ordinance are needed. If there is a need, a second hearing will be held well before the annual town meeting.

The final version to be voted on at the open town meeting will be available by the 1st of March. Once the ordinance changes are on the floor of town meeting, they must either be approved or turned down in their entirety—no further amendments are allowed.

Permits Issued

(Lamoine) - Code Enforcement Officer Michael Jordan issued the following building and shoreland permits in the final quarter of 2012:

Nbr	Name	Project
34	Murphy, Ralph	Shed
35	Johnson, Kenneth	Residence
36	Sperry, James	Shed
37	Sargent, John	Shoreland*
38	Habitat for Humanity	Residence
39	McLaughlin, Sean	Residence
40	Bender, Constance	Shed
41	Stan, Brian	Shed
42	Frost Associates	Expansion
43	Pettegrow, Josette	Shoreland*
44	Worthington, Mark	Shoreland*

*Shoreland permits are for either driveways or landscaping which require a permit.

In an Emergency, Can Responders Easily Find You? Probably Not!

(Lamoine) - It's 10:15 PM—a very dark night, and Lamoine's fire department is paged to a call to a specific address on Buttermilk Road. Within 5-minutes the fire trucks are rolling, and less than 5-minutes from the station the trucks drive right by the entrance to the address. The truck drivers go slow, trying to see some indication of where the driveway might actually be. They get to the next house, and find they've already gone by, but even that address was hard to see. Precious minutes lost—thankfully it was a false alarm. The scenario was real—it happened in September, and it happens more often than one might realize.

Lamoine has about 1,100 active addresses. It's a pretty safe bet that 95% of them cannot be easily seen by public safety personnel (ambulance, police, fire) from the roadway, and that can be a serious problem when minutes count. It's even confusing for delivery companies like Federal Express and UPS. Public health educator Iris Simon is concerned, especially as the town ages and the ambulance is needed more often. She contacted the town office to see what could be done to encourage more residents to adequately mark their homes so emergency responders can find it in a

hurry. And we've come up with a plan.

The Lamoine Fire Department will sponsor an effort to obtain reflective addressing

signs for folks who want to order one. The most expensive option is just \$14.00. An order form will be posted on the town's website or available at the town office. The Penobscot County Sheriff's Department manufactures the signs and provides posts and mounting bolts.

Placement is the key. The sign should be where a driveway intersects with a named road. Many of the roads off the major highways of Lamoine do not have mailboxes, and a mailbox is not really a great indication of where the physical address sits. Numbers on the actual house are difficult to see, especially if the house is not visible from the named street and it's dark.

The first orders will be placed in the spring. Payment ahead of time is required. If you can't install the sign yourself, fire personnel will gladly do so.



A properly placed reflective sign on Douglas Highway makes this address easy to spot for fire truck drivers.

Town Office Open on First Day of Same Sex Marriage License Issuance

(Lamoine) - Normally the town office is open on the first and last Saturdays of the month, and December was no exception. However, both office personnel came in on the 29th to man the counter in anticipation of higher than normal demand for marriage licenses.

Maine voters approved of same sex marriage on November 6th, and the new law took effect on December 29th. The State Office of Data and Vital Records had to develop a new marriage application and license form, and that was not rolled out until Christmas week.

While some of Maine's larger cities saw an increased demand for marriage licenses, alas, there was no waiting line in Lamoine. In fact, the only person who showed up for the 8AM opening was a reporter for *The Ellsworth American* who left without a story.

Roadside Litter Still Plentiful



(Lamoine) - Sometimes the folks who voluntarily pick up litter alongside the roads in Lamoine find some pretty amazing things. One North Lamoine resident tells of the time he picked up a lottery ticket and it turned out to be a winner. That's pretty rare—as lots of losing lottery scratch off tickets make up a good portion of the trash that is collected by the Adopt A Highway Crews.

Tammy Smith and her daughter Trisha help to pick up the Buttermilk Road, and there is no shortage of litter there. Above, Tammy is holding a plastic car piece that apparently came off a

vehicle at some point and landed beside the road. Residents of that part of Buttermilk say they're just far enough away from the fast food restaurants in Ellsworth that folks who eat on the run finish then, and toss the bag, wrapper and empty drink cup out the window. It's pretty disgusting.

Georgia Munsell who coordinates the adopt a highway program is very appreciative of the dozens of volunteers who hit the shoulders with gloves, bags and orange vests a couple of times a year. If you wish to volunteer, please contact the town office for details.

Minimal Road Work Performed in Autumn

(Lamoine) - The town will wait until spring to trim trees out of the road to give Bangor Hydro Electric's contract crew time to finish up its work. That kept road work to a minimum during the last quarter of 2012.

The crew from Jay Fowler & Sons replaced one culvert and re-patched a portion of Needles Eye Road where a culvert replacement a couple of years ago settled unevenly. The repaired section should make things a lot easier on the snow play.

Richard McMullen's crew reshaped a driveway entrance on Shore Road to try to keep water from pouring out into the road, and diverting it into the ditch instead. They also repaired an eroded culvert outlet on Buttermilk Road. McMullen, who also plows the town roads, has remained mostly off the road, as very little snow fell through December.

Road Commissioner Stu Marckoon had identified a portion of Mill Road from Route 184 to the Cold Spring Water Company, along with Seal Point Road that needed the trees trimmed. The crew from Asplundh has been working around town for much of the late summer and fall removing brush from around power lines, it was deemed prudent to wait until they finished before the town work started.

Town Meeting Set for March 12 & 13

(Lamoine) - The annual town meeting will take place over a 2-day period in mid-March with the election of municipal officers on Tuesday, March 12, 2013 followed by the open town meeting on Wednesday the 13th. Voting takes place at the Lamoine Town Hall while the open town meeting will take place in the Lamoine School Gym.

This could be an interesting election year, with two Selectman seats being filled. One of the seats was vacated when William Brann resigned from his post last September. The other is currently held by Richard Fennelly, Jr. who was undecided at publication time about whether he would run for a fourth term.

As of the publication date, three candidates were circulating nomination petitions for Selectman—Christopher Norris, Nathan Mason and Bernard Johnson. Petitions require 25 registered voter signatures and must be submitted to the town clerk's office no later than noon on January 26, 2013.

One position is open on the Board of Assessors—that is currently held by chair Jane Fowler. No candidates have taken out papers to appear on the ballot as

of publication date.

Besides the candidate election, there will be one other issue on the ballot, asking for direction on enforcement of the Maine Uniform Building and Energy Code (see article below).

The open town meeting may have some controversy as well. The Planning Board has been crafting a new Gravel Ordinance to replace the current document, and some stringent new measures are contained in the proposed ordinance (see article on page 2).

The annual town budget will also be up for adoption at the town meeting, and because of more proposed paving, municipal expenditures are projected to rise when compared to the current year budget (see article this page).

Prior to the annual meeting, the Board of Selectmen will present the Citizen of the Year award, and the Conservation Commission will present its annual award to a person or organization that has made a significant contribution to the Conservation and preservation of town resources. The recipients will be chosen in the weeks leading up to the annual meeting.

Opinion Sought On MUBEC, Enforcement

(Lamoine) - The Maine Uniform Building and Energy Code, known in the municipal government circles as MUBEC, is causing some concern with the town's Code Enforcement Officer (CEO). Municipalities like Lamoine that have a population under 4,000 are not required to enforce the incredibly complex building code, however, all construction projects, no matter what town they're in, are required to be built to MUBEC standards. And, while Lamoine has had a relatively benign set of building codes for years, the fact that the town has any code requires the inspection level on a building project to be to MUBEC standards.

Since the Legislature adopted the MUBEC rules, the town has not been inspecting to standards, but has issued certificates of compliance with the Building and Land Use Ordinance

indicating that the inspected project meets that ordinance, but has not been inspected to the state standard.

At the request of CEO Michael Jordan, Selectmen will ask voters whether they want the CEO to inspect to the MUBEC standard and direct the Planning Board to develop an ordinance change implementing MUBEC, or to continue not inspecting to that standard and directing the Planning Board to remove all building code standards from the ordinance. There are relatively few towns in Maine with a population of 3,999 or less that inspect to the MUBEC standard. Jordan estimates it takes more than 15 inspections on a typical project to come into compliance. He is recommending that the code references be removed and the Planning Board be directed to propose the change in a revised ordinance.

Town, and Frenchman Bay Partners

(Lamoine) - The Board of Selectmen approved of collaborating with a lot of other groups, including other municipalities, to ensure that Frenchman Bay is economically, ecologically and socially healthy. The Lamoine Conservation Commission is also a partner in that effort, and in October, Selectmen listened to Bar Harbor Town Councilor Jane Disney advocate for the town becoming a member. There was no direct cost to the community.

According to its website (www.frenchmanbaypartners.org), the partnership allows for stakeholder groups and individuals to ensure a sustainable future for the bay area. It's not limited to ecology, though many of the group

members have been active in restoring eel grass around the Lamoine side of the bay.

One of the big sustainability efforts grew out of employment opportunities for shellfish harvesters, and the town has been a major part of that effort with the Frenchman Bay Regional Shellfish effort. By limiting commercial licenses and enforcing a multi-town ordinance, the stage has been set to ensure that sustainable clam and other shellfish harvesting in the bay can take place well into the future.

The partnership plans to create a plan for Frenchman Bay, produce an "atlas" and prepare annual reports on the state of the bay. Sorrento, Sullivan, Gouldsboro and Trenton are also partners.

Municipal Budget Increase Likely Recommended

(Lamoine) - Final recommendations from Lamoine's Budget Committee will come on January 7, 2013, but it is likely the panel will recommend a spending increase above current year levels. Two major expenditure issues are driving the proposed increase—paving and a new fire truck purchase/loan.

The biggest budget line increase is for road maintenance and paving—proposed by the Road Commissioner to increase by \$66,370. There are a couple of factors at play. The snow plowing contract expires after this winter season, and it's not known what the contract price will be for the next cycle. There is also a sizeable increase in the amount of paving planned in the spring of 2014—half of Walker Road and the Transfer Station are proposed to be repaved. That will add an estimated \$42,120 above the current year.

The administration budget is proposed to increase by about \$12,000. Much of that is to prepare for higher oil prices and contracted wage increases for town office staff. Funding for a temporary clerk/tax collector is also included.

Several budgets are proposed to fall slightly, including Code Enforcement, Solid Waste, Parks & Recreation and Social Service requests. For some reason, a few agencies that request funding did not submit timely applications for inclusion on the town meeting warrant.

The capital projects line will spike in 2013/14 if voters approve purchase of a new fire truck (see article on page 5).

Town Deeds School Property to RSU 24

(Lamoine) - It was just a matter of time before the deed was done. The deed in this case, was actually the deed to the land and buildings of the Lamoine Consolidated School, and Selectmen have signed over the property to Regional School Unit 24.

The request came in October, explaining that the RSU was applying for a bond to cover major energy upgrades system wide. The bond counsel had insisted that the RSU actually own the property. Since the initial request, Lamoine has apparently been dropped from the energy upgrade discussion.

Still, the request for a deed stood. Town Attorney Tony Beardsley prepared the document, at RSU expense as he was preparing deeds for many other former school departments in the area.. The deed cuts out a piece of land for the fire station and parking area, and includes an adjacent lot on which the school septic system is located.

Kiosk Damaged

(Lamoine) - Whoever ran into the kiosk at Bloomfield Park (below) didn't stop to report the accident. Park users reported the damage in November. It appears one of the legs snapped off. The panels themselves were not damaged, and a new leg has since been installed.



Thanks go to Doug Jones, Kermit Theall and Richard McMullen who teamed up to repair the kiosk. Doug put on the "splint" and took the picture above. Kermit repaired the leg, and Richard placed large rocks in front of the kiosk to prevent vehicles from getting too close. The repairs totaled \$340.

Emergency Operations Manual Review Set

(Lamoine) - Following the shooting incident (*see page 1*) in October that temporarily closed the town office, the Board of Selectmen suggested that the town's emergency operations procedures be reviewed. They set a date of early January for that review—and that date

(Lamoine) - Those clam chowder dinners, auctions, and many generous donations to the Lamoine Volunteer Fire Department will help purchase a new tanker/pumper truck in 2013, provided voters give approval. Members of the fire department approved of contributing \$25,000 from the LVFD funds to help reduce the cost to taxpayers. Additionally, the LVFD is offering to fund the final payment of \$7,000 on the 2010 brush truck.

Fire Chief George "Skip" Smith presented the Selectmen and Budget Committee with information about the proposed new truck. He said new EPA standards that will take effect in 2014 are likely to make the truck chassis significantly more expensive than if a truck is constructed to the 2013 EPA standard. The change has to do with diesel exhaust systems.

Fire Calls Infrequent in Last Quarter

(Lamoine) - The fire department responded to eight 9-1-1 calls this quarter. Three of those were out of town structure fires.

The most serious in town call came December 1st when several reports of roadside fires were received in the early evening hours. The first, on MacQuinn Road, scorched a small area. Two more fire scenes were located on that road, and at least one other on Mill Road. Snow started to fall shortly thereafter, lessening the fire danger. The Maine Forest Service and Maine State Police were contacted but the fire starter remains unknown. Anyone who might have spotted suspicious activity should contact the Maine Forest Service. Snowstorms in late December saw

The initial estimates on the new fire truck places the cost at about \$230,000. The present tanker truck, which carries 1,800 gallons of water, was purchased in 1989, and will have reached its estimated 25-year life in 2014. Chief Smith is not sure if the department will retain the truck as a backup tanker or retired it from service and try to sell it.

The new truck will be a 2,000 gallon tanker with a 1,250 gallon per minute pump. The pumping capacity is nearly 3-times what the present tanker has. The Budget Committee is recommending that the town borrow \$196,000, utilize the \$25,000 from the fire department and \$9,000 from the fire truck reserve fund. If the funding package is approved in March, a set of specifications would likely go out to bid in July, 2013.

response to a pair of very minor road issues without any injuries involved.

Fire Dept. Dinner Feeds Hundreds



Volunteer Harry Nickerson dices up the onions for the annual clam chowder dinner in October.

(Lamoine) - The chowder served at the October 2012 Lamoine Volunteer Fire Department dinner drew good reviews from the few hundred folks who turned out. It was different, though. Long time chef Albert Herrick passed away in August, so son Lt. David Herrick took over the preparation and did a bang up job. His son, David Jr., helped to dish out the chowder, and wife Julie coordinated the supper preparation and setup.

Dozens of folks contributed casseroles, pies and ingredients for the chowder dinner. Usually the date is the Saturday following Columbus Day. The Fire Department realized about \$1,800 in profit from the dinner.



Assistant Fire Chief Stu Marckoon demonstrates what a firefighter in an airpack looks like to Lamoine Consolidated School students

Unpaid 2010 Property Taxes Lead to One Foreclosure

(Lamoine) - A flurry of last minute payments saw several property owners in Lamoine avoid automatic foreclosure on their land and buildings. The town ended up with just one piece of property through the statutory foreclosure process, a lot of shore land that borders Raccoon Cove and North Road.

Under the tax lien process, folks who have not paid their property taxes had 18-months from the lien filing date of June 17, 2011 to pay the back taxes, fees and interest. The poor economy is believed responsible for the higher than usual number of foreclosure notice mailings that went out in November giving the property owners until December 17, 2012 to get the taxes paid. Several properties have mortgages on them, and the financial

institutions holding those mortgages forwarded the property tax payments to the town.

The former owner of the lone foreclosed piece of property will get a letter from the Board of Selectmen in January giving them until the first meeting in February to pay the back taxes, fees and interest. If the former owner fails to take advantage of that offer, the property will be placed out to sealed bid auction. The amount due is about \$2,300, and the assessed value of the land is \$71,400.

Last year the town sold one piece of foreclosed property back to its former owner and another piece was auctioned off and the town realized additional revenue of several hundred dollars as the bid price exceeded the back tax amount.

Selectmen OK New Vault Shelving Plan

(Lamoine) - Storage in Lamoine's concrete and steel vault will become a lot more organized in the next year if all goes well. The Board of Selectmen has given the go ahead to design a set of three movable shelves to place inside the vault for storage of the town's permanent tax and vital records. The shelves are currently being designed by the same company that installed the same type of shelving at the Ellsworth City Hall.

The Lamoine vault has a lot of space issues, and that creates the potential for damage to the older town records that have been stored upright on wooden shelves in one corner of the vault. The new shelving system is expected to cost about \$8,700, a little bit more than was budgeted for the current fiscal year. Voters will be asked to authorize an addition \$1,000 at the annual town meeting in March to complete the project.



If all goes as planned, shelving in the town hall vault will look very similar to the shelving the City of Ellsworth uses (shown above) with movable shelves on tracks.

While the new shelves are installed, a major purge of unnecessary records will start to take place. The vault has become home for the "what do we do with this" storage—items that require some temporary storage but are not required to be kept permanently under state law.

Conservation Commission News

By Anne Labossiere

(Lamoine) - Several Conservation Commission members helped gather nearly 200-pounds of litter from the shore near Lamoine State Park on National Shore Cleanup Day on September 22nd.

Lamoine's 5th and 6th graders will continue the GET WET project for the 8th year, informing townspeople on the condition of the aquifer. The Commission also hopes to expand public awareness on existing and newly created trails for hiking, bird watching, skiing, snowshoeing and snowmobiling. David and Camille Legere volunteered their time and talent to create log bridges over wet parts of the Simons Trail.

Fred Stocking has assisted the Conservation Commission as the project leader for the open space inventory. A

forum called "Lamoine Conservation and Open Space: The Next 20-Years" will be held in the coming weeks—a date has yet to be determined.

The Conservation Commission also seeks nominations for its annual award. Nominees should be a Lamoine resident or someone with a significant tie to town. Selection criteria include stewardship and best practices for conservation of the local environment. Written nominations must be submitted to the Conservation Commission at the town hall.

Mud Creek at Low Tide,

*Photo Courtesy of Bob Pulver,
Conservation Commission Chair*

Past Conservation Award winners listed on back page



Dog Licenses Due by End of January



(Lamoine) - According to last year's town report, there were 319 licensed dogs in Lamoine. As of the last week in December, only 64 of those dogs have been relicensed.

State law requires all dog owners to license their pups with the town office. The cost is \$6/year for a neutered dog and \$11/year for a dog capable of reproducing. There is a 1-month grace period in January to re-register a dog, but after January 31st, a mandatory \$25.00 late fee is charged.

Besides payment, the only other requirement is that your dog be vaccinated against rabies. The town office is happy to call your veterinarian (provided that office is open) to get the rabies expiration date if you have mislaid the paperwork.

You may also re-register the dog on line through January. There is a link to the on-line registration on the front of the town's website (www.lamoine-me.gov). The on-line site accepts debit and credit cards. If your rabies are up to date, we can also re-register over the phone using a credit card (207-667-2242), though \$1 extra will be charged to your credit card.

The options are a lot less expensive than a visit from the Animal Control Officer and a trip to District Court where a fine for keeping an unregistered dog can be \$100.

How Cold Was It?

(Lamoine) - The thermostat read 42-degrees when town hall staff showed up first thing Monday December 17th. That's cold, and worse, the furnace had been out for at least a day. Ray Plumbing quickly responded to replace an igniter on the furnace, but a lot of things wouldn't work in the cold. The photocopier, it turns out, needs to have a minimum temperature to function. So does the Cable TV transmitter which failed at some point during the weekend.

It was also so cold in the town office that the batteries in the smoke detectors were not putting out enough power to prevent the units from "chirping".

Lamoine Home Of State's First Rabbit Shelter

(Lamoine) - Jenny Parker Nichols is a big fan of rabbits, and she might be their very best friend in the state. The 39-year old mother of 3 has opened Maine's only licensed shelter for the furry creatures at her family's home on, fittingly, Cottontail Lane. The road was named long before the Nichols family moved there.

There is a huge cute factor with rabbits, but they also require a lot of care. And Nichols says while bunnies look cuddly, they rarely are. She says rabbits are very intelligent—they can be litter box trained pretty easily, and some even come when they're called by name. But, many are not particularly sociable like dogs and cats, and when first time rabbit owners get that experience, that's when the pet becomes unwanted, and that's where the shelter comes in. Nichols notes that rabbits are classified by the state as livestock, veterinarians consider them exotic animals, and pet stores sell them as pets, so there is a lot of confusion about them.

Nichols opened the shelter in mid-summer, gaining a license from Maine's Animal Welfare Board. She set up a website (www.ccrabbitrescue.org), a Facebook page, and got lots of media attention. Now, she gets calls from all over Maine from people looking to either shelter an unwanted rabbit, or from others looking to adopt one. Rabbits have a well earned reputation for reproducing, and often the rabbits that show up are expecting. There is quite a maternity ward (see picture below) at the shelter. Nichols says the



Jenny Parker Nichols holds one of the many rabbits in her family's garage awaiting adoption

shelter is a non-profit operation, and there are costs—mostly food and hay to keeping in operation. She says they can answer basic rabbit health questions and she, her husband Mathew and the children are having a ball running the shelter. Nichols can be reached for more information at (207) 664-0344.



Vote Tabulation Machine Speeds Counting

(Lamoine) - For the first time in town history, voters fed their ballots into a tabulation machine instead of into a wooden ballot box. And by 10:00 PM all the votes were tallied and stored away and reported to the Secretary of State's Office and various media outlets. That made for some very happy ballot clerks who recalled working in three teams of two in 2010 until about 4:00 AM counting the ballots by hand.

Town Clerk Jennifer Kovacs said there were no issues at all on election day with the operation of the machine that could not be easily rectified. The most common complaint was that it was difficult to feed the ballot into the scanning machine. Often voters had to try two or three times to have the machine properly grab the ballot without it binding up.

The previous day saw absentee ballots processed through the machine, and because those had folds, they quite often got bound up. Five

of those ballots had to be tallied by hand. The town will have the machine for at least five years under a lease from the Secretary of State's Office. It will be used on state elections, but is unlikely to be used on town ballots because of the cost to set up the computer and print special ballots.



A voter feeds her ballot into the tabulation machine on November 6, 2012

New Faces at Town Hall

(Lamoine) - You might see some new folks working at the town office this winter. In late January town clerk Jennifer Kovacs will be out on maternity leave and she will be replaced, temporarily, by Nancy Jones. The Mill Road resident is well known to customers of the Lamoine General Store where she worked before retiring a few years ago. Mrs. Jones has received training in motor vehicle registration and the various town office functions.

Also new to the staff this winter is Kendall Davis III. He is the new Cable TV Operations manager and will be responsible for scheduling the Lamoine CTV channel and will do some programming production work.

Kendall is a student at the Hancock County Technical Center.



Kendall Davis

Community Arts News

By Diane Sanderson

(Lamoine) - LCA had a very successful fall theater production of *You Can't Take It With You* by Hart and Kaufman with sold-out crowds at the Lamoine-Bayside Grange and excellent reviews in local newspapers. We actually received enough money from a fifth performance to pay for scraping and painting the Grange entryway and to give the Grange an extra check for their general expenses. Now as we move into the winter months, we will continue with our practice of having readings in members' homes the last Saturday of January, February and March. For information about these evening readings, you can contact Diane Sanderson at 667-7969.

The Lamoine Quarterly

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Stuart Marckoon, Adm. Asst.

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January 2013-Lamoine Schedule

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1-Federal Holiday, Town Office Closed	2-9AM Board of Assessors	3-7PM Selectmen	4	5-Town Office open 8- 12
6	7-6:30 PM Budget Committee	8-6:30 PM Planning Board @ School	9-7PM Conservation Commission	10	11	12
13	14	15	16-7PM Shellfish Conservation	17-7PM Selectmen	18	19
20	21-Town Office Closed, Federal Holiday	22-6:30 PM Planning Board –Ordinance Hrg	23	24	25	26-Town Office open 8 -12 Nomination Papers Due
27	28	29-7PM Joint Municipal Shellfish Bd	30	31		

February 2013-Lamoine Schedule

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1	2-Town Office open 8- 12
3	4	5-7PM Planning Board	6-9AM Board of Assessors	7-7PM Selectmen	8-Absentee Ballots Available	9
10	11	12	13-7PM Conservation Commission	14	15	16
17	18-Town Office Closed, Federal Holiday	19	20-7PM Shellfish Conservation	21-7PM Selectmen	22	23-Town Office open 8 -12
24	25	26	27	28		

March 2013-Lamoine Schedule

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1	2-Town Office open 8- 12
3	4	5-7PM Planning Board	6-9AM Board of Assessors	7-7PM Selectmen	8	9
10	11	12-Municipal Election 8am to 8pm	13-6PM Open Town Meeting	14	15	16
17	18	19	20-7PM Shellfish Conservation	21-7PM Selectmen	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30-Town Office open 8 -12
31	Past award winners of the Lamoine Conservation Award are: Doug & Beverly Coleman, Ellis “Sam” Holt, Harold & Nancy Boynton, Willem Brutsaert, Jim Norris and Fred Stocking					

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January 2013

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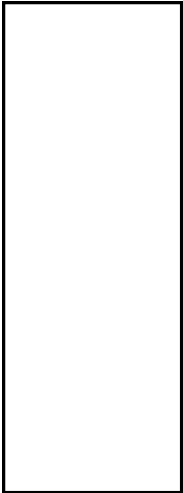
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Town of Lamoine
606 Douglas Highway
Lamoine, ME 04605